



## State of Connecticut

African-American Affairs Commission  
State Capitol  
210 Capitol Avenue – Room 509  
Hartford, CT 06106  
860-240-8555

April 1, 2015

Good Afternoon Senator Coleman, Representative Tong, Ranking Members and other members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Glenn Cassis, Executive Director of the African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC). I am submitting this testimony in opposition to **HB 7051 – An Act Concerning the Investigation of Fraud and Corruption**. The AAAC's mission is to improve and promote the economic development, education, health and political well-being of the African-American community in the State of Connecticut.

The AAAC is certainly against fraud and corruption and supports every effort to bring violators of the public's trust to justice. However justice must be applied with due process. This bill gives the Chief State's Attorney, deputy or state's attorney the authority to issue subpoenas. Subpoenas are issued by the clerk of the court in the name of the judge presiding over a case. There is no justification in this bill for by-passing the court. This puts too much power in the hands of the prosecutors and avoids probable cause and the rights protected by the Fourth Amendment. Section 4 places an unfair burden on a person with limited resources to squash a subpoena versus the resources of the government. The state prosecutors can and should follow the normal procedures to serve subpoenas otherwise where will the line be drawn?

The Commission supports the intent of the bill, "to protect Connecticut residents from financial crime and to investigate fraud against government programs and funds" but government should follow proper due process. The Commission does not support this bill.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Glenn A. Cassis".

Glenn A. Cassis  
Executive Director

### *Our Mission*

*To improve and promote the economic development, education, health and political well-being of the African-American community in the State of Connecticut*